

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically controlling the gain in a radiofrequency signal reception device, said device comprising at least one first low-noise amplification stage placed following a reception antenna, and at least one variable-gain device placed in the reception facility, the method comprising the steps of:

neutralization of the signal received by the antenna; and

a first adjustment of the gain during the neutralization of the signal received until a predetermined noise level is obtained at the end of the reception facility; and

a second adjustment of the gain wherein, during signal reception, until a predetermined noise power is obtained in which the extraction of the noise power is carried out by performing the following steps are performed:

~~extraction of the thermal noise power at the end of the reception facility; and~~

~~adjustment of the gain until a predetermined noise level is obtained~~

sampling and digitization of the signal at the end of the reception facility,

digital demodulation of the digitized signal,

modulation of the demodulated signal,

calculation of the noise power from the modulated signal and the digitized signal.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the neutralization of the signal received is carried out by cutting off the supply to the first low-noise amplification stage.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A radio frequency signal reception device, said device comprising:

at least one first low-noise amplification stage placed following a reception antenna;

at least one variable-gain device placed in the reception facility;

means for neutralizing the signal received by the antenna; and

means for adjusting the variable-gain device as a function of the noise level at the end of the reception facility, ~~wherein said device further comprises:~~

~~means for extracting the thermal noise power during the reception of the signal;~~

means of sampling and means of converting the signal at the end of the facility into a digitized signal,

means for performing the digital demodulation of the signal and for obtaining a demodulated signal,

means of digital modulation for modulating the demodulated signal and obtaining a modulated signal,

means for calculating the noise power from the modulated signal and the digitized signal; and

means for adjusting the variable-gain device as a function of the noise level extracted.

6. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 5, wherein the means for neutralizing the signal received are switching means which switch the supply of the first amplification stage.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A device for transmitting/receiving radiofrequency signals transmitted by a satellite comprising:

at least one first low-noise amplification stage placed following a reception antenna; and

at least one variable-gain device placed in the reception facility, ~~wherein said device further comprises:~~

~~means for extracting the thermal noise power during the reception of the signal;~~

means of sampling and means of converting the signal at the end of the facility
into a digitized signal,

means for performing the digital demodulation of the signal and for obtaining a
demodulated signal,

means of digital modulation for modulating the demodulated signal and obtaining
a modulated signal,

means for calculating the noise power from the modulated signal and the digitized
signal; and

means for adjusting the variable -gain device as a function of the noise level
extracted.

10. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 9, wherein the means
for neutralizing the signal received are switching means which switch the supply of the
first amplification stage.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)